

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 14498

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN USIDJC US ID

SUBJECT: U.S.-INDONESIA JOINT COMMISSION

REF: STATE 278474

1. SUMMARY: MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, PLANNING, AND DEFENSE MEETING NOVEMBER 27 TO MAKE FINAL DECISION ON JOINT COMMISSION. FORECAST IS THAT IDEA WILL BE ACCEPTED, POSSIBLY WITH SOME SUGGESTED CHANGES IN FORMAT. END SUMMARY.

2. WHEN I APPROACHED ALEX ALATAS, FOREIGN MINISTER'S SPECIAL ASSISTANT, TO REQUEST APPOINTMENT WITH MALIK, ALATAS TOLD ME MALIK WOULD BE MEETING WITH WIDJOJO AND PANGGABEAN NOVEMBER 27 FOR FINAL DISCUSSION OF JOINT COMMISSION PROPOSAL. HE SUGGESTED APPOINTMENT WITH MALIK BE ARRANGED NOVEMBER 28 OR 29 AFTER THIS MEETING.

3. WHEN I MENTIONED TO ALATAS MY CONCERN OVER IMPLICATION OF QUESTIONS THAT HAD BEEN RAISED BY BOTH WIDJOJO AND PANGGABEAN, HE SAID THAT THESE DID NOT MPLY OPPOSITION TO BASIC PROPOSAL. ON BASIS OF STAFF CONSIDERATIONS IN FOREIGN DEPARTMENT, MALIK'S PERSONL INTEREST, AND WHAT ALATAS HAS HEARD FROM OTHER DEPARTMENTS, HE IS CERTAIN INDONESIAN RESPONSE WILL BE POSITIVE. RESPONSE MAY, HOWEVER, INCORPORATE SUGGESTIONS TO MEET AT LEAST TWO CONCERNS.

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4. FIRST STEMS FROM MINISTERS WIDJOJO'S DESIRE TO HAVE
FORMAT FOR ECONOMIC DISCUSSIONS AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL.
(MY SURMISE IN JAKARTA 14372 THAT WIDJOJO NOT TOO HAPPY
AT BEING EXCLUDED FROM COMMISSION WAS APPARENTLY CORRECT.)
ACCORDING ALATAS, SUGGESTION AMY BE MADE THAT ECONOMIC SUB-
COMMISSION BE FORMED AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL.

5. SECOND CONCERN STEMS FROM SENSITIVITY OVER POSSIBLE
PUBLIC REFERENCE TO PARTICIAPTION IN SECURITY SUB-
COMMISSION. ALATAS SUGGESTED THAT ANNOUNCEMENT COULD BE
GENERAL IN TONE AND NOT SPECIFY FUNCTIONS OF SUB-
COMMISSIONS.

6. COMMENT: WHILE IT MAY BE THAT MINISTERS WILL ACCEPT
OUR PROPOSAL AS IS, ALATAS USUALLY HAS FAIRLY ACCURATE
READING OF INTERANL DISCUSSIONS. I BELIEVE I SHOULD BE
PREPARED, THEREFORE, AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE TO RESPOND TO
LIKELY COUNTER-SUGGESTIONS WHEN I MEET MALIK. SPECIFI-
CALLY I WOULD LIKE TO SUGGEST: (A) THAT I BE EMPOWERED
TO USE THE LANGUAGE RELATING TO THE COMMISSION PROPOSED
IN THE DRAFT COMMUNIQUE (STATE 278158). IF COMMUNIQUE
IS NOT FORMALLY CLEARED, PERHAPS I COULD USE THE LANGUAGE
AS ILLUSTRATIVE OF WHAT WE MIGHT SAY. FACT THAT WE DO
NOT PROPOSE IN SUCH LANGUAGE TO MAKE SPECIFIC REFERENCE
TO SECURITY SUB-COMMISSION WOULD BE HELPFUL IN MEETING
ONE APPARENT CONCERN: (B) AUTHORITY TO SUGGEST THAT,
IF QUESTION OF MINISTERIAL LEVEL IN ECONOMIC COMMISSION
IS PRESSED, THAT WE AGREE THAT MINISTER OF RESPECTIVE
COUNTRY WILL CHAIR ECONOMIC SUB-COMMISSION WHEN THAT SUB-
COMMISSION MEETS IN HIS CAPITAL. THIS WOULD NOT OBLIGATE
AMERICAN CABINET OFFICER TO TRAVEL TO JAKARTA BUT WOULD
OBLIGATE HIS ATTENDANCE AT LEAST AT OPEING SESSION WHEN
SUB-COMMISSION MET IN WASHINGTON.

7 I PASSED ALATAS INFORMATION ON OTHER COMMISSIONS
RECEIVED IN STATE 278161. THIS WAS MOST HELPFUL.
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